



The Avenue Project Task Force

Wednesday, September 14th, 2005

6:00pm-8:00pm

The Dorchester House

1353 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester

Introductory Meeting Notes

Attendance: Task Force Members: Michael Mackan, N. Paul Ton That, Arlene Lopes, Rosanne Foley, Jane Howard, Marissa Coleman, Anne Riley, Ed Crowley, Richard O'Mara, Sean Denniston, Eileen Fenton, Leslie MacWeeney; City Councilor Maureen Feeney, Aldo Ghirin-Boston Parks, Kay Kaigler-BMS, Maria DiStefano-BackStreets, Ralph J. DeNisco-BTD, Vineet Gupta-BTD, Marty McDonough-DND, Carole McLaughlin-DND, Bill Cotter, Jeanne Richardson-BWSC, Molly Dunford-ONS, Inés Soto-BRA, Carolyn Bennet-BRA, John Dalzell-BRA, Dana Whiteside-BRA, and Jeremy Rosenberger-BRA

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting was called to order by the Dorchester Avenue Project manager Ines Soto. She welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves.
- A discussion about a walking tour or trolley tour for Task Force members was initiated. As a group consensus, a morning tour, hopefully in early October would be best. The idea of one main tour and several sub tour groups was mentioned. To close discussion on the trolley tour, an email will be sent requesting availability for tour.
- Also mentioned was for a regular monthly Task Force meeting date. Again, an email will be sent requesting availability for monthly meeting and decided upon at the next Task Force meeting.

II. Update since the Dorchester Avenue Charrettes

- Ines Soto presented a brief overview of the community charrettes and business workshops that have taken place.

III. Presentation of Charrette/Workshop comments

- Jeremy Rosenberger presented the summarized community charrette and business workshop comments. Jeremy gave a brief overview of the structure and contents of the document. Ines requested that the Task Force review the document for the next Task Force meeting and highlight 3-5 suggested action plan topics.
- Ed Crowley mentioned the need for a consistency to the Ave.
- Sean Denniston made the comment for the Task Force members to think about why they like living in the area.
- One more Task Force meeting for the month of September was approved.

IV. City Resources [Staff, Funding, Presentation on Sketch-Up 3-D Model]

- Carolyn Bennett of the BRA GIS department presented the 3-D Model that is being developed for the Dorchester Avenue Project to be utilized as a tool for Task Force members and city agencies.

- Ines talked about the \$5 million dollar overall budget, and the current \$200,000 earmarked for this fiscal year. She mentioned that a meeting is being scheduled to look into the allocated funds.
- Jane Howard asked if summaries of past Dorchester Avenue projects could be made available at future Task Force meetings.
- Ed Crowley mentioned the need to move away from the simple “better than what was there” ideology for Dorchester Avenue
- Andre Porter gave an overview of DND resources
- Jeanne Richardson gave a brief overview of the BWSC project report given to Task Force members at the meeting.
- Vineet Gupta gave a brief overview of BTM issues along the Avenue. He also described the ongoing collaboration of BTM with BWSC to ensure the repainting of crosswalks will proceed efficiently.
- A number of questions/comments were directed toward Vineet. Some of the questions/comments were crosswalk status in the Savin Hill area, timing of traffic lights, handicap access, and a timeline for BTM projects on Dorchester Avenue

V. Youth Summit/Workshop Update

- Jeremy and Ines provided an update on the current Youth Outreach Initiative. The program culminates in a Youth Charrette/Summit in November and will provide two youth representatives to reside on the Task Force, possibly starting in December.

VI. Other Business

- Ines mentioned adding Task Force members info on the Dorchester Ave website, but members agreed no personal info should be listed.
- It was agreed upon that the next Task Force meeting would occur on September 28th, 6pm, at the Dorchester House.
- For a monthly meeting time, it was noted that many of the Task Force members are associated with various civic groups that meet on many different days and that the monthly Task Force meeting date should try to fit best within these engagements.
- The Task Force agreed to cut down on the size of meetings, city agencies should only attend relative to the meeting’s agenda.

VII. Adjourn

- Meeting was adjourned at around 8:10 pm.